CH. 8 THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Lesson 1: The President and Vice President
LEARNING GOAL

- Students will be able to analyze the structure, function, and processes of the executive branch as established in Article II of the Constitution; the executive branches role in the lawmaking process at the federal level and how the Constitution limits the power of the executive branch by integrating visual information with corresponding evidence, data, and facts found within print and digital text.
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- Only 3 constitutional requirements for being President
  - Must be at least 35 years old
  - Must be a native-born American Citizen (American from Birth)
    - Naturalized citizens are not eligible to be President
  - Must have lived in the United States for 14 years
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- Presidential Characteristics (So Far)
  - All have been male
  - Most Caucasian
    - Barack Obama first African-American President
  - All have been Christians
    - One a Catholic Christian
  - Most have been college educated
    - Ivy League colleges
  - Many were lawyers
  - Most have come from states with very large populations
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- Electing a President
  - Every 4 years the nation elects a President
    - The elections take place on years that can be divided by the number 4
  - President is not directly chosen by the voters
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- Electoral College elects the President
  - Each state and Washington D.C. has a certain number of electors based on the state’s population
  - Electoral votes is equal to the number of senators and representatives a state has
- In most states winner takes all the electoral votes
  - Maine and Nebraska are the exception. These states allocate two Electoral Votes to the popular vote winner, and then one each to the popular vote winner in each Congressional district (2 in Maine, 3 in Nebraska) in their state.
Lesson 1: The President and Vice President

- There are 538 total electoral votes. 270 votes is needed to win the Presidency.
- If no one reaches 270 votes the House of Representatives chooses the President
  - This happened in 1800 and 1820
- Public votes for President in early November, Electoral College doesn’t vote until December.
- Congress counts Electoral votes in early January. Then election becomes official.
- President takes office in mid to late January
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Electoral Votes in the US (2012)
Total Votes: 538 | Vote to win: 270
(100 Senators + 435 Representatives + 3 D.C.)
Lesson 1: The President and Vice President

- Term of Office
  - President serves a four-year term
  - Term limit was not mentioned in Constitution at first.
    - Term limit precedent was set by George Washington
    - This lasted until 1940. Franklin D. Roosevelt broke this tradition by running for 4 terms
  - In 1951 congress added the 22nd Amendment that limited president to two “Elected” terms.
    - Person may serve almost 10 years if they become president with two or less years remaining in the term of the previous President
**LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

- **Salary and Benefits**
  - President is paid $400,000 dollars a year
  - Also, receives money for personal cost and travel
- President lives in the White House
  - A staff of more than 80 people take care of the President’s family
- Has access to Camp David
  - This is an estate in the mountains of Maryland
- Has a fleet of special vehicles
  - “The Beast” - President’s bulletproof/bomb proof limousine
  - “Air Force One” - President’s private jet
  - “Marine One” - President’s personal helicopter
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

White House

“The Beast”
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

“Air Force One”

“Marine One”
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- The Vice President
  - The Vice President is elected with the President
    - Also, chosen by the Electoral College
  - Rules and Qualifications for becoming Vice President same as for President
  - Constitution gives little power to the Vice President
    - Article I, presides over the Senate. Only votes to break a tie.
  - Vice President becomes President if the President dies, is removed from office, falls seriously ill, or resigns.
LESSON 1: THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

- Presidential Succession
  - Presidential Succession Act
    - Passed in 1947
    - It lists the line of succession after the Vice President
      - A line of succession is the order in which officials are expected to succeed, or come next, to an office
# Lesson 1: The President and Vice President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice President of the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker of the House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President pro tempore of the Senate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of the Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorney General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of the Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Secretary of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Secretary of Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Housing and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Secretary of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Veterans Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary of Homeland Security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 1: The President and Vice President

- 25th Amendment
  - Makes it clear that if the President dies or leaves office the Vice President becomes President.
  - Also, gives Vice President a role in deciding whether a president is disabled and cannot do the job. If this happens Vice President becomes President until President can resume role of President.
    - Example, If the President is having surgery the Vice president might take over role of President until President is able to return.
LESSON 2: PRESIDENTIAL ROLES
PRESIDENTIAL ROLES

Chief Executive

1. Carry out the laws (Main Job)
2. Appoint heads of agencies, federal judges, ambassadors, etc.
3. Grant reprieves, pardons, and amnesty
4. Veto bills passed by Congress
PRESIDENTIAL ROLES

Chief Diplomat

1. Make treaties with foreign countries
2. Decide how the U.S. will act toward foreign countries
Head of State

1. Build goodwill with other countries
2. Represent Americans at important ceremonies
PRESIDENTIAL ROLES

Commander in Chief

Command the nation’s armed forces
PRESIDENTIAL ROLES

Legislative Leader

1. Build support for laws the president wants
2. Call special sessions of Congress on extraordinary occasions
Economic Leader

Make budget decisions